Fondueschaud
Réchaud à fond
Flamer/Brazier

FLIPBIRDS..
STONES..
FLIPPY YAURENL..

DORE WAS

Entering My New Era -2023

This open series of paintings/graphic scores uses principles of Sterling Ruby's DRFTRS series. Ruby uses a dense archive of imagery in these collage works, referencing prisons, archaeology, and even album covers. The images float across these expressionistic and abstract landscapes; hence, the name of the series is an acronym for Drifters. Ruby has called collage an "illicit merger," highlighting the transgressive nature of the medium.

The collage elements of this series are from a niche, overwhelmingly positive form of a meme that often interrupts our traversal of the internet. Particularly on Tiktok, among the often deeply nihilistic content shared on the platform, these memes seek to soothe the inner dread that we face in response to the qualms of living in a culture based on consumption. Often with explicit references to said system. These memes often express themes of self-healing, mental health awareness, being silly, and having fun and are a distraction or "pitstop" in between the doom-scrolling nature of the platform.

Often presented in slideshows, you are meant to scroll across these relatively large collections of memes. Unique to the platform, relaxing, compositional ambient music sets the tone as you swipe to the left across the collection.

By placing these in the context of the abstract expressionist landscapes inspired by Ruby, they evoke the physical experience of 'surfing the web' our eyes darting between the images, often not entirely comprehending the material in front of us, while the void and infinity of the internet are represented physically behind them.

These graphic scores are open interpretation and open instrumentation and are as long as you want them to be. Though they are open interpretation please consider the context provided in these notes when performing them.

Before beginning, choose a key among all members and then play whatever. Here, the purpose of the key is to agree on a starting point for the work but where it ends, nobody truly knows (just like the internet)

Consider things like texture, dimensionality, material, color, text, feelings, line shape, and literally anything else. Maybe even quote some of your favorite 'meme songs'.

PLEASE have fun (͡° ͜ʖ ͡°)

Adrian Cervantes Mendez

NBC (###-##-####)- 2023

This open series of compositions/visual art explores the navigation of Mexican popular culture and American contemporary culture. Growing up with parents who migrated to the United States shortly before I was born meant that I was raised on mostly American culture while only being exposed to where I was from through visits during the festival season. During these visits, I would visit tianguis in Zamora and other places, and I was so interested in the way American consumer items would find their way alongside folk tourist gifts. A man selling Game cartridges next to leather goods.

The collage elements of this series are from a few sources. At the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance, there are bins for music that nobody claims anymore and that anyone can take. This is where the 'antique' and mono-colored images of singers come from, as well as the painted sheet music elements, which come from the same score. The images of 'folk' ceramics have been AI-generated using DALL-E 2 with input phrases like "traditional Mexican ceramics". Once generated, I used the "variations" tool over and over to 'deep-fry' the ceramic works, making them amorphous and uncanny. Images from comic books I owned in my childhood are also used. The last collage element is more of an overarching idea than a direct material. This idea of "bootlegs" is used as a starting point for adding the final materials. 'Poorly' painted action figures, fake toys, 'poorly' wrapped objects, cards, altered cards, ETC.

In this series, I also employ what I call 'found notation', that is, with a permanent marker or other pointed tools, I have written over the painting posthumously with lines that are interpreted by the performers. These notational gestures come from other paintings, graffiti, graphic design elements, or words. Sometimes, the canvases (cardboard) have pre-written text or lines prior to painting that show through the top layer of paint. Additionally, the performer is supposed to interpret these gestures.

The paintings are semi-open interpretation.

Here are the instructions:
-The piece will occur over a period of ~10 minutes.
-The work can be for any number of performers and instruments.
-The work starts with a key agreed upon by performers (does not have to stay in that key)
-The work begins and ends with washes of pleasant ambient sound drifting like smoke in a room inspired by the abstract expressionist background
-The collage elements denote certain sonic phenomena that must occur at some point during the piece
    -Antique images: a melancholic lyrical line
    -Painted sheet music: a melody using the rhythms of the sheet music
    -Folk ceramics: a melody from a corrido (can be a deconstructed line)
    -'Deep-fried' ceramics: do the same melody but more noisy or with extended techniques
    -Comic book images: sounds representative of the scene or colors
    -Bootlegs: copies of sounds you have heard from other musicians
    -Found notation: freely interpreted but keep in mind context around the notation (textures, images, colors, etc.)
-Aim for no breaks in sound
-Collage elements can be triggered at any point time by any number of performers (including synchronously)

PLEASE have fun (⊙o⊙)⊃━☆

Adrian Cervantes Mendez

Shoplyfter- 2023

This open series of compositions and visual art explores a few different ideas. The first is the strange recurrence of seeing Yugioh or Pokemon cards sprawled across supermarket parking lots or in very urban centers. It has not happened more than 10 times in my life, but it has happened more than once, and that's just weird. The second is the “rules of the internet” meme birthed by 4chan. Particularly in Rule 34, which reads, “If it exists, there is porn of it. No exceptions.” This includes shoplifting (hence the name of this series being the name of a pornography company), which I discovered after thinking that these Yugioh cards probably got ditched in the parking lot after being stolen. An unfortunate Google search led me to my previously mentioned discovery. The third idea is using the stains and residue buildup found on industrial concrete as material for creating abstract backgrounds for the other materials to “drift” around in. Additionally, I make these pieces from discarded materials.

In this series, I also employ what I call ‘found notation’, that is, with a permanent marker or other pointed tools, I have written over the painting posthumously with lines that are interpreted by the performers. These notational gestures come from other paintings, graffiti, graphic design elements, or words. Sometimes, the canvases (cardboard) have pre-written text or lines prior to painting that show through the top layer of paint.

The paintings are semi-open interpretation.

Here are the instructions:
-The piece will begin with a meme compilation of any duration that is played over a speaker
    -optional: project the video for the audience to watch.
-The piece will occur during the duration of the video and end once the video has finished.
    -Ex: You select a video that is 10 minutes long, and the piece ends after ten minutes.
-The work can be for any number of performers and instruments,but one must be acoustic.
-The work starts with a key agreed upon by performers (does not have to stay in that key)
-The work begins and ends with loud, dark noise.
-The collage elements denote certain sonic phenomena that must occur at some point during the piece
    -Trading card: throughout different points of the piece each member must yell something based on the card.
    -abstract background: ambient noise inspired by the colors reading from left to right over the duration of the piece
    -Found notation: freely interpreted but keep in mind context around the notation (textures, images, colors, etc.)
-Aim for no breaks in sound
-Collage elements can be triggered at any point time by any number of performers (including synchronously)

PLEASE have fun (⊙.⊙(◉˜_˘◉)⊙.⊙)

Adrian Cervantes Mendez